



MISSISSIPPI DEPARTMENT OF MARINE RESOURCES  
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## News Release

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

### ***Marine Debris Removal Contract Awarded for MS Sound***

BILOXI, Miss. – The Department of Marine Resources (DMR) has announced that the U.S. Coast Guard has awarded the Hurricane Katrina marine debris removal contract for the Mississippi coastline, from below mean-high tide to one-half mile out, to Matthews Marine and Gulf Equipment LLC.

This will be a joint venture between Matthews Marine of Pass Christian and Gulf Equipment of Theodore, Alabama. Matthews Marine has worked on several projects related to derelict vessel removal in the Mississippi Sound. Gulf Equipment performed marine debris removal work in Florida following Hurricane Ivan.

"I have sent Matthews Marine the list of our Mississippi fishermen who are interested in working the marine debris removal effort and Matthews seems interested in using it," said DMR Staff Officer Irvin Jackson, who is working closely with the Coast Guard in coordinating the marine debris removal effort in Mississippi.

Now that the contract has been awarded, marine debris removal in the Mississippi Sound is expected to begin within two weeks.

The Mississippi Department of Marine Resources is dedicated to enhancing, protecting and conserving marine interests of the State by managing all marine life, public trust wetlands, adjacent uplands and waterfront areas to provide for the optimal commercial, recreational, educational and economic uses of these resources consistent with environmental concerns and social changes. Visit the DMR online at [www.dmr.state.ms.us](http://www.dmr.state.ms.us).

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